

Life Group Homework

JAMES 1:1-4

Let's Get Started:

Welcome to a new sermon series—the book of James. To test whether or not a diamond is genuine, jewelers will sometimes place it in clear water, which causes a real diamond to sparkle with more brilliance than an imitation stone. Placed next to each other, even the untrained eye can easily tell the difference.

We have all heard the expression used, ***“He or she is an authentic Christian.”*** The book of James is a very practical epistle where James makes clear distinctions between people who have genuine faith and ones who simply profess faith in Christ but show no evidence of that in their life.

How would you describe an “authentic” Christian?

Let's Dig In:

TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE ABOUT THE BOOK OF JAMES:

1. What was the family relationship between James and Jesus?
2. Why do you think James is referred to as a “half” brother?
3. Jesus grew up in a family that included four half-brothers. Can you name all four?
 - a. J _____
 - b. J _____
 - c. J _____
 - d. S _____

4. What insight does **John 7:5** give you about what James thought about Jesus' true identity when they were young?

5. Later, according to **Acts 1:13-14**, James is recorded as being one of the believers, waiting for Jesus with other disciples in the _____ room.

TRIALS

Read **James 1:2**

1. Have you ever gone through a trial, complained about it, and then later discovered that God had a purpose in it that actually made the trial of value for you? Share such an experience.

2. In your own words, what do each the following scriptures teach you about trials?

a. Job 5:7 and 14:1

b. I Corinthians 7:28

c. John 16:33

d. John 15:20

3. Read **John 10:10**. Some people read this and conclude that the "abundant life" Jesus refers to

means that once a person becomes a Christian, then they should have fewer troubles and trials in their life.

a. What do you think?

b. Do a little research on **John 10:10**. What did Jesus mean when He said He came that we might have life and have it abundantly?

4. According to **Hebrews 5:7-8**, what value did the human experience of Jesus have for Him, relative to his suffering?

5. Read **Romans 5:3-5** and **8:18**. What about the culture here in Southern California makes it difficult for most of us to consider suffering to be something positive, helpful, and something to rejoice in?

Let's Live It Out:

Read I Corinthians 10:13.

Share a time or a situation where the Lord proved to you that this verse is trustworthy and true.

Pray and encourage group members who are going through trials right now.